

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated November 16, 2004, claims 22-31 and 33-38, in the above-identified U.S. patent application were rejected. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 22-31 and 33-36 remain in this application, claims 32 and 38 have been canceled, and claim 37 has been withdrawn.

Claim 22 was objected to due to the language "a receptor tyrosine". Claim 22 has been amended to recite "a receptor tyrosine kinase". In view of this amendment applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 22-31, 33, 34 and 36 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. The office action contends that "the specification does not adequately describe that G protein coupled receptor initiated extracellular signal pathway recited in claims 22-31, 33, 34 and 36". The claims have been amended to recite "a G protein mediated extracellular signal transduction pathway". This language is supported by the disclosure on page 2, lines 5-22 of the present application. In view of these amendments, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 35 was rejected as indefinite as no step was recited for identifying compounds for modulating G-protein mediated signal transduction. Claim 35 has been amended to recite "thereby identifying a test compound for modulating G-protein mediated signal transduction". In view of this amendment applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 22-26, 28-31, 33-36 and 38 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) over Dong et al. Applicants point out that Dong et al. does not stimulate the G protein/GPCR initiated signal transduction pathway prior to contacting the cell with a compound affecting a G protein mediated extracellular signal transduction pathway as required in the first and second steps of the present claims. The claims have been amended to clarify that the stimulation step is performed before the contacting step. Even if batimastat is considered to be a compound affecting a G protein mediated extracellular signal transduction pathway as required in the second step of the present claims, Dong does not suggest or disclose a stimulation step prior to contacting the cell with batimastat. Dong only adds the EGF to reverse the effects of batimastat (i.e. Dong does not add the EGF before adding the batimastat). Since Dong's EGF does not stimulate G protein mediated signal transduction in a cell having a receptor tyrosine kinase, prior to contact with batimastat, Dong does not suggest or disclose the first (stimulating) step in the present claims which is then followed by a contacting step. In view of the fact that Dong does not suggest or disclose a stimulating step followed by a contacting step, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) over Dong et al. in view of Miyoshi et al. Miyoshi was cited for the disclosure of a cell line which produces proHB-EGF and contains EGFR. Miyoshi does not suggest or disclose modulating G-protein mediated signal transduction or a step of stimulating the G protein/GPCR initiated signal transduction pathway as required in the first step of

the present claims followed by a second step of contacting a cell with a compound affecting a G protein mediated extracellular signal transduction pathway and thus does not cure the above discussed deficiencies in Dong. In view of the above discussion and amendments, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22-31 and 33-36 are now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the telephone number below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fee for such an extension together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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